



**Remember: Congregational Response Session – Sunday, March 7  
Light lunch 1:30-2:00 PM. Meeting commences 2:00 PM. Childcare is available.**

### **Responses**

#### **Number 11 in a continuing series**

On Sunday, February 14, one hundred people met in the sanctuary to hear the progress report from the Working Group, see the drawings from our architect, Phil Markwood, and ask questions. There were lots of questions, and we will document those in the next issue. We also handed out response cards, with four survey questions:

- *What do you think of the plan so far?*
- *Do you think we should continue to investigate the possibility of building this design at our current site?*
- *What do we need to find out next?*
- *Do you have any suggestions?*

We asked only two identifying questions:

- *How long have you/your family been members of Beth Tikvah?*
- *Do you have children in religious school?*

Respondents were *not* asked to identify themselves.

**Before I give you the results, I'd like to request that you come to the next response session. These sessions are *not* simply repeats of what we did on the 14<sup>th</sup>. They are progress reports and town hall meetings. We need you to be present! This is your chance to truly affect the future of Beth Tikvah.**

### **THE RESULTS**

We received 32 response cards, a fairly high percentage. Of those 32, five currently have children in religious school. (*We need more representatives from this group at the next meeting. Please tell us what we can do, besides feeding you and your children, to get you there! Childcare is available.*)

As for length of membership, distribution was as follows:

0-5 years:	4
6-10 years:	5
11-15 years:	5
16-20 years:	5
21-25 years:	4
26-30 years:	5
36-40 years:	1

A fairly even distribution, we think.

#### **1. What do you think of the plan so far?**

31 of the 32 respondents liked the plans presented. One person wanted us to consider building a sanctuary at Snouffer and Smokey Row and keep this building as an annex and for classrooms. Various committees have considered that option over the years, but we will examine it again.

Here are some samples from the other responses:

- *The plans are beautiful – and perhaps even brilliant in using our property to its best potential.*
- *It is the smartest building plan I have seen for Beth Tikvah in the past 10 years. It solves many problems and creates considerable improvements.*
- *I like the open airy feeling of the sanctuary, the location of the library, and a designated space for youth activities. I like the separate gathering space (makes a more welcoming feel to the building). Love the permeable parking!*
- *Sounds Good – Build Soon. Go Forward Now. Tomorrow will be Too Late.*
- *DO IT.*

Concerns that were raised included:

- *The entrance to the sanctuary through the social hall.*
- *Light in the classrooms.*
- *Gift shop in the old coat closet.*
- *Access to restrooms.*

Phil and I are looking at screens or curtains to mask banquet tables so that people attending a *simcha* won't have to encounter the tables as they progress into the sanctuary. There will be light in the classrooms; Brad had not rendered our current windows in the 3D presentation we saw. The two classrooms that have no outside walls (since they will be built in the current courtyard) will have skylights. We're looking at other possibilities for the gift shop. All of the restrooms will be ADA compliant and completely accessible to wheelchairs.

## 2. Do you think we should continue to investigate the possibility of building this design at our current site?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<b>31</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>0</b>
? "I don't know"	<b>1</b>

## 3. What do we need to find out next?

Almost all of the respondents wanted to know about financing:

- *How many of the previous pledges would be renewed?*
- *Where is the interest that has been earned on the money from the previous campaigns?*
- *What is the value of the property at Snouffer and Smokey Row?*
- *How will we close the gap between cost and available funds?*
- *Can our new members carry the financial burden?*
- *Should we really spend \$2.3 million to improve this property?*

These are the primary questions that we are researching now. We will have preliminary answers at the March 7 response session.

Other questions which respondents wanted us to research were:

- *Parking?*
- *Will Worthington allow us to do this project?*
- *How will we handle planned activities next year?*
- *What are the needs of young families?*
- *Is there congregational support?*

We wrote about one possible approach to parking in the last installment. Based on conversations with city staff, we believe it is likely that Worthington will support this project. Please note that I did not say that they definitely will support it, nor has the city staff assured us of that. But in its current form, the project raises no zoning issues, and the neighbors are very supportive based on what they have seen so far. Neighborhood support is key to government support.

If we go forward with this project, we believe that there is a way to handle the calendar to minimize disruption to temple activities. Phil Markwood has more experience renovating religious institutions than any other architect in Columbus. Based on conversations Merry Troper has had with numerous families with young children, we believe that this plan addresses their needs, but we will continue to research this. Let me reiterate that we need more of those families to come to the next response session. And as I said in the first installment, bring the children!

Finally, "Is there congregational support?" That's what the response sessions are designed to find out.

#### 4. Do you have any suggestions?

Yes. (We're Jews.) Here's the list:

- *Get the property at Snouffer and Smokey Row appraised.*
- *Sell the property at Snouffer and Smokey Row.*
- *Do feasibility studies.*
- *A playground for children.*
- *Larger classroom sizes.*
- *Rooftop gardening.*
- *Solar panels and other energy-saving green features.*
- *Tankless water heaters.*
- *A walking path to and from the outside sanctuary door.*
- *Incorporate Jewish features into the design: use Jewish symbols and Hebrew words on walls.*
- *Explore the possibility of "naming" rights.*
- *Get commitments from people who pledged money and did not pay.*
- *Call new members to pledge.*
- *Forget the \$\$ from the JCC.*
- *Seek funding from the Federation and the Foundation.*
- *No mortgage!!*
- *Build what we have funds for now.*
- *Build trust. There is residual bitterness over the last campaign's unfulfilled promises and misspent funds.*
- *Be careful not to fracture the congregation.*
- *Repeat the history that Chari Fogel gave at subsequent meetings.*
- *Keep the dialogue going.*
- *When everything is built, invite the mayor and the Rabbis from all 8 temples to be our guests.*
- *Continue on...*

We will. See you on March 7<sup>th</sup>!

John Stefano  
February 24, 2010

#### ***NEXT: The questions asked on February 14***

#### **Meeting Dates reminder**

Congregational Response Sessions, Sundays, 1:30 to 4:00 PM – **March 7 and April 25**  
Light Lunch – 1:30 PM. Meeting begins – 2:00 PM. Childcare is available.

Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 23, 5:00 PM

#### **The Working Group**

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